



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## SEPTEMBER 8.

Dr. A. E. Foote in the chair.

Twelve persons present.

*Inflorescence of the Compositæ*.—At the meeting of the Botanical section, on the seventh inst., Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN remarked that it seemed obvious, by the rule in Asteraceous plants, or the order *Compositæ*, that the order of anthesis was inversely to the growth. But by a note of Prof. Asa Gray in his new synoptical *Flora of North America*, referring to *Liatris*, it did not appear to have received the marked attention of botanists. Among the generic characters of *Liatris*, Dr. Gray gives flowering from the top downwards, as in an inverted spike or raceme. He exhibited specimens of *Mulgedium*, *Lactuca*, *Erecthites*, *Gnaphalium*, *Aster*, *Solidago*, *Vernonia*, *Erigeron*, *Bidens*, and *Xanthium*, all gathered casually and hastily within a few yards of each other, to show that the upper or terminal flower was the first to open, then the upper flower on the next branch of the raceme or panicle, and then the lower ones in succession. If in these plants the side branches were arrested in their growth, and the terminal flowers of the branchlets brought down in proximity to the main stem, we had precisely the same kind of anthesis as in *Liatris*. If *Liatris* had a branched panicle instead of a spicate inflorescence, we should not notice any difference between it and other plants. There were some other families of plants that presented a similar order of anthesis, but it is so marked a character in *Compositæ* as to make it well worthy of consideration in connection with the peculiar construction of the flower heads.

A remarkable reflection is that this completion of growth, and their flowering down the stems backwards, ceases with the formation of the flower heads. Then the anthesis of the florets is with and not reversely to the growth. In a sunflower, for instance, any one may remember that the florets near the ray open first, and continue to open spirally until the centre is reached.

There were, however, exceptions in *compositæ* to the order of anthesis in the flower heads. In *Ambrosia* the lower flowers on the spike opened first, and they continued to open upwards as in the raceme of any other order of plants. In the female plants of *Ambrosia artemisiæfolia*, being abundant this season (1885) the truly racemose order of opening was the same as in the ordinary monœcious plants.

## SEPTEMBER 15.

Mr. CHARLES MORRIS in the chair.

Twenty-three persons present.